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SA/RR

19 December 1953

THRU : Chief, D/S
Chief, S/TR

Taishet - Komsomolsk Railroad (per your request for ORR representative, Madrid)

1. Subject rail line was projected pre-World War II and is known as the Baikal-Amur Magistral (BAM).
2. Operation of the Taishet-Lena sector began on a limited basis about 1950, and this portion of the line has been steadily improved since that time. The original alignment had to be altered to avoid the area flooded by the Bratsk hydroelectric project. Taishet-Lena, built largely by forced labor under MVD control, was just recently accepted for regular operation by the railroad ministry.
3. Taishet-Lena is a single-track, steam operated railroad carrying mostly timber west and supplies and construction materials to the Lena River port of Osetrovo for transshipment to Arctic installations.
4. In the Far East, a single-track steam operated rail connection extends westward from Komsomolsk to Urgal, handling largely coal and timber traffic.
5. No connection is known to exist between the Lena and Urgal. Reports of railroad planning in the area indicate various routes have been surveyed but there are no reliable indications of actual construction.
6. Enclosed for your reference is a copy of our best reference on the status of the USSR rail network.

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Enclosure:

1. Copy of CIA Map No. 25888 7-58.

Distribution:

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